



Sustainable Food Policy Board

MARCH MEETING MINUTES Monday, March 26, 2012

The Sustainable Food Policy Board (SFPB) convened on Monday, March 26, 2012, at Boards and Commissions Room, 301 W. Second Street, Austin, Texas.

Chair Paula McDermott McDermott called the meeting to order at 12:39pm.

Board Members in Attendance:

Erin Flynn	Ronda Rutledge – Vice Chair	Toni Tipton-Martin
Adam King	Paula McDermott – Chair	Melanie McAfee
Marla Camp	Michele Murphy-Smith	Katherine Nicely

Absent Board Members:

Katie Kraemer	Arthur D'Andrea
Kathy Green	Paige Hill

Staff in Attendance:

Jake Stewart, PARD	Robert Kingham, HHSD	Ashley Pudnos, HHSD
Sarah Brownstein, PARD	Juanita Jackson, TC HHS/VS	Sherri Fleming, TC HHS/VS
Dolores Sandmann, TC HHS/VS		
AgriLife Extension		

CALL TO ORDER

1. CITIZEN COMMUNICATION

None.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 27, 2012.

Vice Chair Ronda Rutledge made a motion to accept minutes. Member Erin Flynn seconded motion. Member Toni Tipton-Martin was not present at vote. Motion passed 8-0-0.

Member Toni Tipton-Martin arrived at 12:45pm.

3. DISCUSS AND TAKE APPROPRIATE ACTION

A. Identify Work Plan for Coming Year - Board Priority Objectives/Working Groups (Paula McDermott and Michele Murphy-Smith)

- Prioritization Procedure and Adoption of Work Plan [30 minutes]

-Read through the objectives and each present member will state which working group they are interested in.

-Vice Chair Ronda Rutledge would like to act as the board liaison for the Food Desert Stakeholder Identification Working Group.

-Member Erin Flynn mentioned that the definition of farmers markets should also include farms stands and food carts.

-Member Katherine Nicely noted that a health professor at UT works with food deserts and would be a good connection.

-Zoning Research Working Group will fold into Food Systems Policy Capacity Building Working Group under “Foster local capacity to help implement food systems-related recommendations & plans.”

-Member Kathy Green is currently working on the Central Texas SNAP Participation Working Group.

At 12:54pm the meeting was paused during technical difficulties. It was reconvened at 1:04pm.

-The tool had an error and should show 5 goals—the 5th goal (Recommend policies that facilitate local capacity...) can be an objective under the 4th goal (Robust & just local economy...)

-The Imagine Austin working group is already working.

-Member Toni Tipton-Martin wants to work with the Food & Nutrition Literacy working group.

-Member Marla Camp recommended that Member Toni Tipton-Martin’s working group focus on schools.

-Member Michele Murphy-Smith made a friendly amendment to alter the name of that working group to reflect the focus—Good Nutrition Literacy in Schools.

-Member Marla Camp will work on Austin/Travis County Buy Local Campaign & thinks it will be important to be in close communication with Member Toni Tipton-Martin’s working group.

-Member Melanie McAfee is working on the Earth Day working group, which would fall under Policy Objective 3.4.

-Urban Agriculture working group is no longer in existence.

-Local Food Economic Assessment working group can be lumped in with the Economic Assessment Overview working group. Member Katherine Nicely will be the board member for this working group.

-Food Surplus & Salvage working group does not yet have ownership.

-Member Erin Flynn would like to work on the Distribution/Processing Assessment working group.

-Folded the 4.3 Objective into Objective: “Foster local capacity...” and moved Distribution/Processing Assessment working group under 4.3 to this other objective as well.

-Austin Resource Recovery Connection to Stakeholders working group which Member Paige Hill was working on is now complete.

-Objective “Foster local capacity...” has the Distribution/Processing Assessment working group and the Food Systems Policy Capability Building working group. The Food Systems Policy Capability working group name was modified to be the Food Retail working group and will be chaired by Member Adam King.

-Urban Agriculture working group is one that Chair Paula McDermott works on.

-The Policy Objective “Define ‘local or regional food system’...” is not actually an objective and is being wrapped into the Policy Objective “Access the availability of land...”

-Member Katie is currently working on the Water Sustainable Use and Conservation working group, but will soon be leaving the board. Member Erin Flynn will continue to be involved with this working group, but can’t take the lead. Hopefully Member Katie Kraemer’s replacement will take over this working group.

Board members will be given 5 dots to place next to objectives. The top objectives will be the focus for the coming year.

- Identify & map food deserts...7 dots
- Remove zoning and other barriers...6 dots
- Coordinate with the sustainability office...7 dots
- Improve food and nutrition...1 dot
- Support social marketing efforts...5 dots
- A thorough economic assessment...2 dots
- Foster local capacity...9 dots
- Assess the availability of land...3 dots
- Minimize barriers to agricultural water access...3 dots

-Top 4 objectives will be the priorities.

-Member Michele Murphy-Smith and Chair Paula McDermott will compile the results.

-No action taken.

▪ Working Groups and Next Steps [5 minutes]

-Chosen objectives will include the working groups under them as well.

-Objectives not chosen as a top priority this year will be reviewed again next year.

-Existing working groups that don't fit into one of the chosen objectives will continue work with a vote of 9-0-0.

B. Sustainable Urban Agriculture Report and Introduction of New Staff – Sarah Brownstein (Jake Stewart, COA Sustainable Urban Ag. Coordinator, Parks and Recreation Dept.) [20 minutes]

-Discussed after 3C.

-Jake can do a follow-up presentation, if requested.

-Introduced new staff member, Sarah Brownstein. An intern will hopefully start in Fall.

-Their website is up: <http://austintexas.gov/austingrows> and a newsletter will go out next month and then on a quarterly basis.

-Briefly discussed neighborhood partnering and related projects.

-Found out that the Urban Farming and Community Garden Zoning Use updated zoning table that lays out that community gardens and urban farms were allowed in any zoning designation never made it into the code, but it is now updated.

-Consolidated license agreement is complete.

-Looking at liability policy options for community gardens so that burden doesn't rest exclusively on SFC.

-Finalized permit process—documents on website.

-Discussed some of the current projects and collaborations.

-Follow-up presentation to board will further discuss GIS work with UT.

-No action taken.

*Member Katherine Nicely left at 2:00pm.

C. Board Annual Report - March 2011 – February 2012 and Annual Internal Review Report for City of Austin (Paula McDermott and Erin Flynn) [5 minutes]

-Discussed prior to 3B.

-Member Erin Flynn has posted the first draft of the report as a Google document and board members can add to it. It's due at the end of the month.

-Vice Chair Ronda Rutledge made a motion to let Chair Paula McDermott and Member Erin Flynn make any final changes or edits and conclude the annual report. Member Marla Camp seconded motion. Motion passed 9-0-0.

D. Follow Up on Board Actions – Imagine Austin, Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program-related letter, Farm Bill response, Texas Dept. of State Health Services [10 minutes]

-Imagine Austin—Working group met last week and the subcommittee of the planning commission that works on the comprehensive plan is meeting this evening and working group representatives will be proposing a few changes that the board previously proposed. No action taken.

-SNAP—Chair Paula McDermott read the letter, which had a change since the last board approval, based on the working group input. Chair Paula McDermott proposed the change as a friendly amendment. The addition asks that they also look into expanding the pilot project that SFC initiated and providing incentives to SNAP users at farmers markets that are in relation with other cities that have done that.

-Vice Chair Ronda Rutledge recused herself from the discussion because she works for the Sustainable Food Center who run farmers markets.

-There was some discussion about barriers to farmers on this issue.

-Member Marla Camp made a motion to table this issue until the working group can meet to discuss some of the issues that came up. Member Toni Tipton-Martin seconded the motion. Member Katherine Nicely was not present to vote. Vice Chair Ronda Rutledge abstained. Motion passed 7-0-1.

-Farm Bill—Response from Lloyd Doggett to farm bill letter sent by Mayor Leffingwell that he was going to be looking out for all the things mentioned and appreciated the support. No action taken.

Texas Dept. of State Health Services—Made an action asking DSHS to allow more time when they make proposals, but the person in charge of posting this information is not the person that the response would go to, so the board is trying to identify who that person is before sending the response. No action taken.

E. Check-in regarding City and Travis County Budget Processes – [10 minutes]

▪ Special Called Meeting HHSD Budget presentation – May 31 (Robert Kingham)

-HHSD has 4 boards with staff support. They will be having a Special Briefing with all of the boards on May 31, 2012 at 6pm in Council chambers to give an update on HHSD budget and what is going to Council for approval. Related items will be earmarked and Robert Kingham will try to get this to the board at the April board meeting.

▪ Travis County Update (Sherri Fleming)

-Juanita Jackson from Travis County presented for Sherri Fleming after agenda item #4.

-Travis County is currently in their budget process right now and will provide updates as they come along.

-Vice Chair Ronda Rutledge asked that Juanita tell Sherri Fleming that in regards to the CAN meeting that she attended, that a working group is starting related to the hunger assessment.

4. STAFF BRIEFING—TEXAS AGRILIFE EXTENSION SERVICE (DOLORES SANDMANN, DIRECTOR, TEXAS AGRILIFE EXTENSION SERVICE) [15 MINS]

-Presented after 3B.

- Introduced the 2011 annual program highlight report, which shows that there were 4100 programs over last year reaching nearly 2.5 million people.
- Dolores briefly highlighted some of the many programs that they offer.
- Passion for Plants event coming up on 4/14/12 from 10am-2pm at Zaragosa Rec Center
- Urban agriculture program has a vacant position.

5. ANNOUNCEMENTS [10 minutes]

- Edible Austin's community newsletter goes out twice a month. If anyone has related announcements that need to go out, they can email marla@edibleaustin.com.
- Food Waste Texas just held a conference recently occurred and discussed local sustainable food practices.

A. Texas Obesity Summit – April 10th-11th – Austin (AT&T Conference Center)

- Summit put on through DSHS. Chair Paula McDermott or Vice Chair Ronda Rutledge will be speaking at the conference.

B. Texas Food Policy Summit – May 10th – 11th – San Antonio

- Vice Chair Ronda Rutledge and Chair Paula McDermott are going to attend, but anyone is invited.

C. SFC Summer Interns

- If a working group would benefit from an intern, email Rebecca@sustainablefoodcenter.org

6. SUMMARY OF ACTION ITEMS [5 minutes]

- Chair Paula McDermott and Member Erin Flynn are working on the annual report.
- Member Michele Murphy-Smith and Chair Paula McDermott are working on the work plan summary.
- SNAP working group will be meeting soon.

7. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- County Bond Process—Farmland Preservation
- City Bond Process
- UT Law School Community Development Clinic Report (leasing public land, property taxes)
- County Presentations and Relevant Budget Items (including HUD Report)
- Sustainability Office Update
- Website/Community Access Update

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting was adjourned at 2:35pm.